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SUBJECT: EASTERN DRC NOTES - JUNE 2

REF: KINSHASA 501

¶1. (U) The information contained in this report consists principally of spot reports from various sources. This cable is not exhaustive, nor can all the information contained therein be confirmed at this time.

#### Security Situation

¶2. (SBU) On May 25, LRA soldiers attacked the village of Banda (150 kilometers southwest of Doruma) in Haut Uele district. MONUC reports that the LRA killed one civilian and kidnapped 20. (Note: The LRA attacked this same village in March. End note.) MONUC military observers confirmed that an unidentified helicopter did indeed land near Ango, as previously reported (reftel), but locals were unable to determine the markings of the helicopter. MONUC determined that it probably belonged to the UPDF and was not used to supply the LRA.

¶3. (SBU) Both North Kivu and South Kivu remain volatile, and the FDLR continues to threaten villages, most recently Bulambika, near Bunyakiri in South Kivu. MONUC has instituted convoy rules for vehicles travelling along the Bunyakiri-Hombo axis. A USAID contractor has suspended its stabilization programs in the area. UN sources claim some villagers have "agitated" against MONUC, claiming that it is facilitating Hutu control in the area.

¶4. (SBU) Two joint MONUC-FARDC patrols to villages around Nyabiondo in North Kivu on May 26 yielded the surrender of three FDLR soldiers and six of their dependents. On May 25 near Nzibira in Mwenga Territory in South Kivu, the FDLR attacked a FARDC unit, killing two and burning their bodies in their huts. In the same area, there are reports of an increase in collaboration between FDLR and unspecified Mai Mai groups.

¶5. (U) Radio Okapi reports that FDLR fighters burned a vehicle and looted villages on the Kiwanja-Nyamilima axis in Rutshuru Territory on the night of May 30-31. Suspected FDLR units also killed one national policeman before Nyamilima-based MONUC units responded to the attack. Okapi reported that the FDLR has deployed troops in the Bwisha area of Rutshuru Territory east of Virunga National Park and that military authorities have discouraged residents from cooperating with armed groups.

DDRRR

¶6. (SBU) FARDC Lieutenant Colonel Shiko has threatened staff at a Radio Okapi broadcast center. Shiko is upset because DDRR programming is attracting deserters from the FARDC for repatriation to Rwanda. DDRR sources confirm that over 200 Rwandans have come forward for repatriation. Many of them joined the CNDP in duress or because they supported Laurent Nkunda, but they have no intention of remaining in an integrated FARDC, especially when they are not paid

on a regular basis.

#### Operation Kimia II

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17. (U) A May 30 MONUC press release announced the official commencement of Operation Kimia II on May 28. The release noted that the operations began at Mashuta in Lubero Territory in North Kivu. The joint operation will employ air and ground maneuvers, aiming to exert pressure on FDLR units in areas of known activity, as well as provide civilian protection to local populations.

#### Integration

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18. (SBU) On May 28, 500 villagers protested outside the MONUC base in Muganzi near Kibua in North Kivu against ex-CNDP elements (now in the FARDC) being allowed to patrol in the area. FARDC General Mulubi is currently touring FARDC sites in South Kivu to reassure troops that they will soon be paid. An additional 56 ex-combatants have integrated into the FARDC in South Kivu during the month of May, bringing the total this year to 1,082.

GARVELINK